

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 3110.03US02

Stephen D. Kuslich

Confirmation No.: 6813

Application No.: 10/702,096

Examiner: Alvin J. Stewart

Filed: November 5, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3738

For: A SEMI-BIOLOGICAL INTERVERTEBRAL DISC REPLACEMENT SYSTEM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action of September 14, 2007, and in accordance with the automatic extension of time for response provided by 37 CFR § 1.136(a), preliminary amendment to the above-identified patent application is requested in connection with the filing of a Request for Continuing Examination submitted herewith.

The present amendment comprises the following sections:

A. Amendments to the Claims

B. Remarks

*Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.*

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.